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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 25: (Cancelled)

26. (New) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line; and

a control tone transmitter to transmit a control signal to which a central office modem in a central office (CO) of a communication system is not receptive for signaling said at least one other NDSL modem to be ready to receive data packets.

27. (New) The modem according to claim 26 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

28. (New) The modem according to claim 26 and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver.

29. (New) The modem according to claim 28 wherein said transmitter and receiver perform time division multiplexing (TDM).

30. (New) The modem according to claim 26 and also comprising an RF transceiver for control of a home device.

31. (New) The modem according to claim 26 and also comprising a DSL modem to communicate with said CO along said xDSL telephone line.

32. (New) The modem according to claim 31 and wherein said DSL modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

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33. (New) The modem according to claim 31 wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

34. (New) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a DSL modem to communicate with a central office (CO) of a communication system along said xDSL telephone line; and

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line.

35. (New) The modem according to claim 34 and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver and said DSL modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

36. (New) The modem according to claim 34 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

37. (New) The modem according to claim 34 wherein said network modem performs time division multiplexing (TDM) and said DSL modem operates according to the xDSL protocol.

38. (New) The modem according to claim 34 wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

39. (New) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication to a central office modem in a CO of a communication system is desired, transmitting data to the CO modem in an

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xDSL upstream frequency band and receiving data therefrom in an xDSL downstream frequency band;

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

transmitting a control signal to which said central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

41. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM) and wherein said transmitting and receiving comprises operating according to the xDSL protocol.

42. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein said second transmitting does not occur when said first transmitting and receiving occurs.

43. (New) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

determining that none of the NDSL modems are communicating with a central office modem in a CO of a communication system;

if no NDSL modems are communicating, transmitting a control signal to which a central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

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44. (New) The method according to claim 43 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

45. (New) The method according to claim 43 wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM).
